

Case 3208

***Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence over *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code is to conserve the generic name *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 for a widespread and well-known Palaearctic genus of rove beetles (family STAPHYLINIDAE), by giving it precedence over the earlier name *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856. Prior to 1952, all authors used *Geodromicus* as the valid name of the genus. Presently most authors continue to use *Geodromicus* and 50 species have been described in combination with *Geodromicus* since 1952, while only 11 have been described using *Psephidonus*. Species of *Geodromicus* occupy habitats near fast flowing water or at the snow line in mountains.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; STAPHYLINIDAE; *Geodromicus*; *Psephidonus*; *Staphylinus plagiatus*; *Geobius kunzei*; rove beetles; Holarctic; Oriental.

1. *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 (p. 244) was proposed as a replacement name for the preoccupied name *Geodromus* Heer, 1841 (p. 572). *Geodromus* Heer, 1841 was itself a replacement for the name *Geobius* Heer, 1839 (p. 193) that had been used for a Palaearctic genus of rove beetles. However, Blackwelder (1952, p. 324) resurrected *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856 (p. 29), a long forgotten name, and listed *Geodromicus* as a junior subjective synonym.

2. The work by Gistel (1856), which included *Psephidonus*, was published on 18 February 1856 (Evenhuis, 1997, p. 305). The date of publication for *Geodromicus* is more difficult to determine, but as it was published in part 2 (p. 244) of Redtenbacher's work it most probably appeared in 1857 (Anonymous, 1856, 1857).

3. The type species of *Geobius* Heer, 1839 was fixed by subsequent designation by Lacordaire (1854, p. 136) as *Staphylinus plagiatus* Fabricius, 1798 (p. 180) and hence *S. plagiatus* is the type species of *Geodromicus* (Article 67.8 of the Code). The type species of *Psephidonus* is *Geobius kunzei* Heer, 1839 (p. 193) by monotypy. These species are currently considered congeneric (e.g. Herman, 2001, pp. 287–289).

4. Prior to 1952, all authors used *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 as the valid name of the genus. Presently most authors continue to use *Geodromicus*, while some now use *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856 following Blackwelder (1952, see para. 1 above). In fact, since 1952 fifty species have been described using *Geodromicus*, while only 11 have been described using *Psephidonus* (see Herman, 2001, pp. 287–306). Although *Psephidonus* is older and has priority over *Geodromicus*, the latter has a long history of use and has been used abundantly (Herman, 2001, pp. 287–306). Recent major

works that use *Geodromicus* include Tottenham (1954), Hatch (1957), Smetana (1959), Palm (1961), Horion (1963), Lohse (1964), Tikhomirova (1973), Pope (1977), Watanabe (1990) and Hansen (1996). *Psephidonus* was unused until 1952 and since then has been used only sporadically (see Herman, 2001, pp. 287–306).

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857, precedence over the name *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Lacordaire (1854) *Staphylinus plagiatus* Fabricius, 1798, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856 whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Geobius kunzei* Heer, 1839, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857 whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the names:
 - (a) *plagiatus* Fabricius, 1798, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus plagiatus* (specific name of the type species of *Geodromicus* Redtenbacher, 1857);
 - (b) *kunzei* Heer, 1839, as published in the binomen *Geobius kunzei* (specific name of the type species of *Psephidonus* Gistel, 1856).

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